

Practical Strategies for Building Positive Relationships

- Play, following the child's lead.
- Have families complete interest surveys about their child.
- Greet every child at the door by name.
- Have a conversation over snack.
- Conduct home visits several times a year.
- Listen to a child's ideas and stories and be an appreciative audience.
- Send home positive notes.
- Offer positive feedback and encouragement.
- Share information about yourself, and find something in common with the child.
- Ask children to bring in family photos, and give them an opportunity to share them with you and their peers.
- Post children's work at their eye level.
- Have a Star of the Week who brings in special things from home and gets to share them during circle time. Make sure everyone has a turn.
- Acknowledge children's efforts.
- In front of a child, call the family to say what a great day he is having.
- Find out what a child's favorite book is and read it to the whole class.
- Let the children make personal "All About Me" books, and share them at circle time.
- Write on a T-shirt all the special things about a given child and let him or her wear it around.
- Play a game with a child.
- Play outside with a child on the playground equipment.
- Ride the bus with a child.
- Go to an extracurricular activity with the child.
- Learn some of the key phrases in each child's home language.
- Give hugs, high-fives, and a thumbs-up for accomplishing tasks.
- Hold a child's hand.
- Call aside a child who has had a bad day and say, "I'm sorry we had a bad day today. I know tomorrow is going to be better!"
- Tell children how much they were missed when they are absent for a day of school.

Adapted from The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning